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Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

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(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Eruk Pauloosie
(Nattilik)

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(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell
(South Baffin)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat)
Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. A very good afternoon to Cabinet Members, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, visitors, and Nunavummiut.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 062 – 3(2): QEC
Accomplishment: Corporate
Performance Management Model**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past 12 months, Qulliq Energy has successfully designed and implemented a corporate-specific performance model that very precisely

moves the corporation to individual, departmental, and organizational accountability for the achievement of strategic business results. The creation of this progressive model was driven by their strategic plan to create an organizational culture that is held accountable for business results at all levels and within all functions.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure this living program becomes embedded in all areas of the company, in September, all senior and middle managers and supervisors were trained over three days in all aspects of the program's delivery.

Mr. Speaker, during the next 12 months, senior and middle managers and supervisors will roll out important elements of the program's modules: self-appraisals and 360 degree feedback surveys. The results of these actions will provide each employee, manager, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation with a clear understanding of whether or not our performance goals are being achieved. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's performance management model is a dynamic program that creates a culture of accountability, interdependence, corporate and individual pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 063 – 3(2):
Nunavut Arctic College Midwife
Graduates Pass National Exam**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Arctic College Midwifery Program, offered in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services, prepares students to become practicing midwives here in Nunavut. The program introduces students to the cultural, spiritual, and traditional practices of Inuit midwifery and is designed to reflect the ethical codes, regulations, and competencies established in territorial and national standards.

Mr. Speaker, the international definition of a midwife is a person who, having been admitted to a recognized midwifery educational program, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, midwifery graduates meet standards set by the Canadian Midwifery Regulatory Committee and provide care that is culturally appropriate for and acceptable to the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to announce that midwifery graduates Catherine Connelly and Rachel Jones of Rankin Inlet successfully passed their Canadian midwifery registration exams to become Canada's first nationally certified Inuit midwives.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>Applause

Since they met national standards, they are eligible for full membership in the Canadian Association of Midwives. Both midwives are working at the birthing centre in Rankin Inlet.

The fact that Catherine and Rachel passed a national exam the first time they tried speaks volumes to the quality of our program and shows how dedicated our students are. This is a historic moment for Nunavut. I encourage my fellow members to join me in extending our congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to building on the success of this program. I would also like to announce that Nunavut Arctic College will continue to offer the Nunavut Midwifery Education Program with a new class starting this January in Cambridge Bay. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 064 – 3(2): Paris
Air Show**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most Members of this House are aware that the Iqaluit International Airport has built an international reputation as the world's premiere cold weather aerospace test centre, particularly for the European aircraft manufacturing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I led a highly successful Nunavut trade team delegation to the 48th Paris International Air Show held between June 12 and 19 of this year.

The Paris air show is the world's largest aviation trade event and it's held every two years at le Bourget Airport on the northern edge of Paris. The show includes four trade days, which are closed to the public, when the world aerospace industry participates in pre-arranged meetings, networking events, formal and informal business discussion, and product demonstrations.

The 2009 Paris Air Show was attended by 140,000 professional trade delegates, representing 2,000 exhibitors from 48 countries. There were 205 official delegations, including Nunavut's, from 88 countries. The world's media also converges on this high profile event and at least 3,500 journalists from the aviation media were in attendance.

I met with senior executives from prospective clients in the commercial, business, and military aviation sectors, such as Airbus, Eurocopter, E.A.D.S. and B.A.E. Systems, promoting the use of Iqaluit International Airport for future cold weather testing.

International aviation is a primary market for growth in Nunavut's air transportation industry, building on the availability and recognition of Iqaluit's airport. Among other specialties, Iqaluit is a world-renowned cold weather testing location for three types of aviation products: airframes, engines, and systems and components.

Iqaluit International Airport is one of Nunavut's largest employment generators, with over 400 people employed in airport-related jobs, plus many indirect economic benefits accruing to the territory.

The cold weather testing business requires minimal capital investment but yields immediate economic benefits through local provision of services, including accommodations, catering, vehicle rentals and ground support, as well as sales of fuel, clothing, and of course, local arts and crafts.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 065 – 3(2):
Response to Canadian Medical
Association Journal**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was extremely disturbing to read the article that appeared on the Canadian Medical Association website on November 25, 2009, and I rise today to give clarity to the issues raised.

The article, Mr. Speaker, was quoted as saying that Nunavut only has five nurses, no doctors, and also compared our current medical system to that of the 1950s when those with tuberculosis were sent south on boats and never heard from again.

Mr. Speaker, while the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to constant improvement of Nunavut's health care system, considering the distance we have in geography, we do currently provide an excellent level of quality care in all communities in Nunavut. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have more than 200 nurses and over 20 physicians in Nunavut providing primary

medical and mental care at the community level.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the medical care and travel in Nunavut is a long way from the boats that took our people from their homes in the 1950s never to be returned, and our staffing levels continue to rise throughout the territory. I trust that this addresses the main issues pointed out in the article on the Canadian Medical Association Journal website.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that a correction has been made to the article and that it no longer appears on the website. However, Mr. Speaker, it is important for the public to know that when articles or opinions in regard to health care in Nunavut appear in the media or online, the information may not be accurate unless it has been verified by my department.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage those people, including our friends from across the street, making public statements about Nunavut health care to contact the Department of Health and Social Services in advance to verify any information. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 066 – 3(2): Fuel Price Reduction

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we start the month of December and prepare for Christmas, we are beginning to think about gifts for friends and family. Mr.

Speaker, I still don't have a Christmas gift for you. I think that this is an appropriate time for good news as well.

Mr. Speaker, we were able to capitalize on lower prices for the purchase of petroleum products last year and have continued to pass these savings on where possible. We have been able to reduce the cost of gasoline by 20 cents a litre and heating fuel and diesel by 10 cents a litre through the early part of 2009. Homeowners in Nunavut were also provided with a \$400 fuel rebate to help with costs.

In July, when the government announced the last fuel price decrease, we committed to continue monitoring costs to ensure any additional savings could be passed along to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services' Petroleum Products Division, I rise today to announce that we are further reducing the price of gasoline by 10 cents per litre effective Friday, December 4.

Merry Christmas, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. You said that you didn't have a Christmas gift for me, but that's a very good Christmas present.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 067 – 3(2):
Homeowner Fuel Rebate**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope I can bring some good news for people in Nunavut and my colleagues as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the government will continue the Nunavut Homeowners Fuel Rebate for another year. As members recall, in March, we provided a fuel rebate of \$400 to assist Nunavut homeowners with the cost of living and to provide homeowners with more disposable income.

Our government believes it is important to stay the course and continue to support recovery in our local economy. This year, we are increasing the homeowners rebate to \$500.

>>Applause

This \$500 rebate and the 10-cent reduction of gasoline just announced by my colleague are steps that this government is taking to help homeowners and families across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this rebate will be application based and notices will be provided for all members and Nunavummiut shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Moving along. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 096 – 3(2):
Welcomes New Fuel Rate and
Homeowners Subsidy**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased about the announcement because my constituents will be very happy.

Looking at the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division, if he grows out his beard, he will look like Santa Claus. So I am very pleased about the announcement and I'm sure that Nunavummiut are very pleased about the reduction of fuel costs and heating fuel. It's going to benefit the homeowners. Perhaps Mr. Peterson will be the elf.

I would like to thank those ministers for those announcements because our constituencies are looking forward to this and I will be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 097 – 3(2):
Consensus Government at Work**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give due recognition to the success of consensus government.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, in March of this year, I asked the Minister of Education to review the food allowance rates for residents of Sanikiluaq who receive social assistance.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I was very pleased to hear the minister announce that today, December 1, 2009, the food allowance rates for Sanikiluaq will be increased.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely appreciate the minister's willingness to respond positively to concerns that were raised in the House. This shows that our consensus system of government can truly be successful.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living and especially the high cost of food has a serious impact on the health and well-being of Nunavummiut. Along with some of my colleagues, I will also be addressing the issue of food mail subsidies later in this session.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Minister of Education for listening to the concerns of the people of Sanikiluaq and increasing the food allowance rates for my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 098 – 3(2):
Transparency of the
Government's Budget Process**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express concerns regarding the transparency of the government's budget process.

As members will recall, I asked questions in the House yesterday concerning the status of a new dozer for the community of Grise Fiord. Although I have now had the opportunity to review the minister's response in yesterday's *Hansard*, the situation still remains troubling. I want to take a moment to outline the facts as I understand them.

Earlier this year, the government introduced its proposed capital estimates for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The Department of Community and Government Services asked the Legislative Assembly for approval to spend just over \$36 million. We, the elected MLAs, approved the requested budget.

Approximately \$4 million of the department's budget was allocated for what the department defines as small capital projects. At that time, MLAs were provided with information from the government that indicated that \$280,000 of the department's budget would be used to purchase a much needed dozer for the community of Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, I voted to approve the department's capital budget on the understanding that the department would be spending the money on the projects that we, the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, approved.

In the spring of this year, the department introduced its proposed main estimates for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. When the minister appeared before the Committee of the Whole, he announced that the department was proposing to create a new pool of block funding in the amount of \$1.5 million. The purpose of this item

was described as being created to provide annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment life cycle planning, procurement, and maintenance. No problem there, Mr. Speaker. I assumed that this would be a new pool of funding.

However, Mr. Speaker, it now appears that the department's capital funding, which the Legislative Assembly had approved earlier this year for certain capital projects, has magically been transformed into the O&M dollars by the department. When the minister appeared before the Committee of the Whole earlier this year, he did not give an indication that this was his intention.

Mr. Speaker, as a new MLA, I am often told that the ultimate power of the Legislative Assembly is to say no.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement, please.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a rookie MLA, I am often told that the ultimate power of the Legislative Assembly is to say no to the government's spending requests. I am becoming increasingly inclined to do just that. As an MLA, I am troubled by the fact that even though we approve funding for specific capital projects in good faith, it appears that the departmental bureaucracy can make arbitrary changes at their whim.

Mr. Speaker, this department and the government as a whole needs to take a close look at its budgeting practices. Although I recognize that any government needs a certain amount of flexibility to deal with emergency situations during the course of the year, it is clear to me that the government is far too eager to undertake budget transfers without adequate consultation and explanation. It is also clear to me that the government's whole approach to the use of small or minor capital projects needs to be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Members' Statements. If there are no more Members' Statements, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 113 – 3(2): Vacancies in Quttiktuq

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked on November 26, 2009, by Mr. Ron Elliott with regard to the people in Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, as of today, I can advise that candidates have been interviewed for the two positions and it is anticipated that job offers will be made by the Department of Human Resources within the next two weeks. If the candidates accept the offers of employment and have satisfactory criminal reference checks, both social worker positions should be filled early in the New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Return to Oral Question 124 – 3(2):
Status of New Dozer for Grise
Fiord**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in clarification to Question 124 –3(2), asked by the MLA for Quttiktuq in reference to the Grise Fiord dozer.

Yesterday, I informed my colleague that the money for the Grise Fiord dozer under minor capital was reallocated to the mobile equipment block fund. I have since learned that this money was not reallocated to the mobile equipment block fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a number of people who are here together.

There are 25 individuals here in the Gallery who are staff and members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada from all three territories, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. They are here attending the first of a three-week union development workshop program and I understand the other two phases will be held in the capital of each territory. That's great to hear they're spreading the wealth around all three territories.

Mr. Speaker, from the Northwest Territories, I would like to welcome:

Jean-Francois DesLauriers, Regional Executive Vice-President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada for the North.

Roy Courtrielle.

I'm sorry if I pronounce your names wrong, but I have them written down and they will be spelled correctly in the record anyway.

Leon Nason.

Rossana Deboer.

Sheila Sauter-Chadwick.

Sandra Lockhart.

Frank Walsh.

Steve Walsh.

From the far west of the Yukon:

Joan Stickney.

Wendy Dindia.

Jack Bourassa.

Steve Geick.

David Ryce.

LoraLee Kessler.

From our own host territory, an individual first off that I went to high school with, I would like to welcome here Jackie Otuk.

Ely Panipakoocho.

Wes Smith.

Bill Fennell.

Elaine Wyatt.

Thomas Langman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Leon Nason here. He used to work in Cape Dorset and he was with public alliance. He used to work for the hamlet and housing in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try not to miss anybody today. I have Craig Borden from Resolute Bay. He's one of the teachers up there at the school. He's down here for union training. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 137 – 3(2): Fuel Price Reduction

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the visitors. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division because this is going to be beneficial to Nunavut.

I still need to ask detailed questions in regard to heating fuel, not gasoline. I am very pleased that homeowners will be getting a \$500 rebate, but will you also be decreasing the price of fuel? Additionally, the aviation fuel has an impact on the prices of goods. So I would like to ask the minister: what you are going to be doing with the aviation fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. We are still in the process of reviewing the heating fuel prices and other fuel products that are used. We are still in the process of reviewing them at this time. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we're on the Christmas season and Christmas Day is coming closer, I'm sure that some people will be going back to their home communities. Aviation fuel has an impact on the prices of airline tickets, so I would like to ask the minister when he

can make an announcement on this.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, people will be heading home for the month of Christmas and I apologize that I can't tell you the exact date as yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we all want to have a good Christmas and that you can be a great Santa Claus if you can reconsider this carefully and also along with the rest of Cabinet. Therefore, I urge the minister to make an announcement as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. That was more of a comment, if you like to respond. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 138 – 3(2): Adult Educator for Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Arctic College.

Not long ago, I was asking questions outside of the session about the adult educator, which we currently don't have in our community. I was asking questions regarding the upgrading program. With our adult education centre, we do not have an upgrading

instructor in our community. Does the minister know when this position will be filled at the new Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It is my understanding that the adult educator position is temporarily filled in Pond Inlet. That is my understanding at the present moment and due to circumstances that arose there, if this is not the case I really like to the member to inform me of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the same thing as you, you understand that it is temporarily filled and is that person who is temporarily filling this position has an adult education teaching certificate to teach independently, without any supervision required? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure of the qualifications of that adult educator at this time, but I would be willing and more than happy to find out to get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister also include when he responds to me that in the event that person who is filling temporarily right now as an adult educator, that he is certified? If not, will he also further tell me that he urgently fill the position with a certified adult educator? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will again check on the information for the member and we will take all steps to ensure that we can try and have a certified adult educator in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 139 – 3(2): Maintenance of Older Housing Units

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Housing.

I have been told by the Hamlet of Kugaaruk and I have visited Repulse Bay. In Kugaaruk, we have over 30 units that were constructed back in the late 60s. I am told that some of these homes are molding inside, wires may not be up to par as we speak today.

My question to the hon. minister is: what are the hon. minister and his department doing to ensure that these homes are up to the standard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that question on behalf of his community. As we just approved our capital budget, there are dollars in there for M&I retrofits for public housing units.

My understanding of the process, Mr. Speaker, is that our community delivery agent in whether it's a municipality, local housing organization or authority that is delivering the public housing in the communities on our behalf is supposed to do annual condition ratings of units to be able to identify the state that our units are in. When they get that information, they prioritize what units and what repairs need to be done in the community. That's how those issues are brought forward and addressed through that process.

If anyone in a public housing unit has any issues regarding the maintenance or the state of their unit, they're supposed to contact our delivery agents in the community and then it's up to the delivery agent to go in and check out any concerns that have been brought forward to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. There is a plan to do a condition rating. Speaking of condition ratings, will the minister have his people going to two of my communities in the summer of 2010 to do what he has said,

condition ratings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it was pointed out by the Auditor General that the corporation did not have a good idea or a good picture of the state of public housing units across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, since then, the corporation has contracted three teams to be going around and do condition ratings on all of our public housing units throughout the territory. I know they're going to Igloolik, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, and Repulse Bay, with plans to complete the work... we're done before the middle of this month as of today, December 1.

In addition I expect that half the units here in Iqaluit will be inspected. I know there are plans to go to the other communities as well to get these condition ratings done. As far as when they're going to go into Kugaaruk, I will check my officials and see when it's scheduled in there, and then I would be more than happy to provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 140 – 3(2): Paris Air Show

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in the Ministers' Statement, the minister talked about a highly successful trip to Paris for the air show. Can the minister update the House on whether any contracts were secured for cold weather testing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, to a certain degree. Some of these companies that are out there, we did sign some agreements where there is confidentiality of certain companies that are involved. There is going to be some cold weather testing here in Iqaluit in the next short while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 141 – 3(2): Talluruti: The Inuktitut Name of the Northwest Passage

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

We read in newspapers and other media that the name of the Northwest Passage is going to be changed. I think it's only *Qallunaat* who are saying that. I think they call it the Northwest Passage because they can't say *Tallurutuup Tariunga*, which is the original name in Inuktitut.

We know that even before the Europeans came around and the whale hunts started in the North, the mouth of the Passage, Lancaster Sound was always utilized by Inuit. Is the government going to inform the federal government, other countries, and overseas that the mouth of the Northwest Passage already has a name in Inuktitut and that we don't want to see it changed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. That's an interesting question. I thought it was always the Northwest Passage. I understand now that there is an Inuktitut name. I think we could relay that name onto our federal partners and explain the situation and importance to us.

As far as the Northwest Passage is concerned, the waters are governed by the federal government, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Coast Guard. I think that information is something that we could take and pass on to our federal partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's nice to know because I read again that perhaps the name change should be changed from Northwest Passage to Canadian Northwest Passage. It is quite disturbing for us because we have no desire to change the name of that

particular sound. It's been suited as fine for the last 5,000 years. It's a perfectly okay name.

Perhaps the message can be relayed to the federal counterparts and other people who want to change the name that maybe they should consider reinstating what Aboriginal people called it before they try to introduce a new name through explorers, and whatever.

Can the minister tell me then that there may be other names, including *Tallurutiup Tariunga*, can be reinstated because early explorers and whalers, etcetera, were naming as if they were making a cake with the Inuktitut name and they couldn't pronounce it, so they put a new name on top of it. There is a whole lot of duplication in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Arvaluk for that comment. I'm just learning today that they may want to change the name to the Canadian Northwest Passage. That's what is being talked about. It's the first I have heard of it though.

I think we can work together with our federal counterparts to voice Nunavut's concern about this and I would welcome the member to write me a letter with his concerns so I can portray it directly to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also know that the High Arctic exiles were put in the High Arctic, not so much to get them into the good hunting grounds. If you're from the sunny country like Hudson Bay, that is very difficult even if there are a lot of animals up in the High Arctic... It's very difficult to hunt in the dark unless they were actually born and raised there, but that was kind of ignorant so I didn't know that.

But they were put there to show actually that this is a Canadian island in the High Arctic. The government wanted to show the international community that Lancaster Sound is the internal waters of Canada. They should stick to the Inuktitut name. The name is so old that none of the Europeans will ever remember what it was named but we would.

Can the minister ensure that the full explanation to the federal government is given so that the appreciation of the Inuit naming has meaning and purpose?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the government would support that type of recommendation. I also think that it's Canadian jurisdiction, but it's also the responsibility under the land claims agreement that NTI voice their opinion in this regard too. I think they're a very major player in this too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Oral Questions.

Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 142 – 3(2): Status of New Fire Truck for Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Lorne Kusugak.

My colleague from Quttiktuq raised concerns about his department's budget practices previously. I also have concerns about the department and its allocations. Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$290,000 in funding for the purchase of a new fire truck for Baker Lake, however the department subsequently cancelled its purchase and transferred the funding to another project.

I received a letter from the department advising me that this had been done but the letter did not even attempt to explain the reasons why. The department certainly did not bother to ask me what I thought about the issue. I immediately wrote a letter to the minister on this matter.

Can the minister indicate to the House why this department cancelled this project without consulting the community's MLA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had thought that the Member of the Legislative Assembly was informed about the

change, and I apologize if he wasn't notified. I did receive your letter and we wrote in English, and I'll try to translate it to Inuktitut.

When we were talking to the Fire Marshall's Office, they thought that it wasn't the appropriate time to purchase a new fire truck. Usually, the lifespan of a fire truck is 15 years. With respect to the one in Baker Lake, it was brought up in 1999. The whole vehicle was inspected and the consensus was that if we conducted \$25,000 of repair on the water pump mechanism and its lights, then that vehicle would be back up to our standards.

It further states here that the mechanics will be coming in from the Fort Gary Fire Brigade and they would be conducting the necessary repairs to the fire truck to make it serviceable and those are the details included in the reply documentation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Hon. Minister Lorne Kusugak for answering. I apologize to the minister as well as my colleagues here in the House. I did receive correspondence in regard to the matter, but I just wanted to ask as a formality in the House to address it on behalf of the constituents of Baker Lake.

As I said, I indicated I want to thank the hon. minister for the response and by no means I want to embarrass the minister in these circumstances, but I did want to formally ask because I did have some hamlet council members as well as

firefighters requesting for me to pursue the matter under the circumstances even though I did share some of the concerns and some of the correspondence.

As a former volunteer firefighter, I show my support to all volunteer firefighters. Under the circumstances in particular, I do throw all of my support behind the Baker Lake Fire Department. I'm aware that the fire truck has not met the 20-year lifespan and the minister has indicated that mechanics were being sent to correct the deficiencies or the broken parts of the vehicle.

With the shortage of housing as it is, two separate duplexes for four families were affected by fire damage. As well, with our vastly growing population, the emergency service provider cannot meet the demands. I think this is a priority in which the first circumstances should be that the emergency services are provided according to the demands.

Can the minister and his department commit to putting it back into the budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The situation as stated by the member is correct since the majority of our volunteer firefighters continue to operate under difficult circumstances and they are the first response personnel, especially when life-threatening situations occur. Many of their duties and work are very demanding and many firefighters put themselves in precarious situations in trying to save lives.

With respect to the comments voiced by the member, I would like him to know that I will ensure that this situation is reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question to the minister, peppered with some comments with respect to capital projects that have been previously authorized by the Legislative Assembly.

Will the minister commit to informing this House where his department will be cancelling or transferring the funds for other purposes, that he will disseminate that information to the pertinent MLA? This is only with respect to previously approved projects. When funds will be transferred or reallocated to other capital projects, will the minister inform the MLA that is impacted?

I just wanted to comment on that and I also wish to thank the minister for responding to my correspondence. Once I return to Baker Lake, I will be relaying that information to the hamlet and the Baker Lake firefighters for their benefit. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the member for that line of questioning. Yes, I apologize that the member was not informed prior to that change, but I will task my senior staff to do as you have recommended. I will ask that if there is any further

review of capital projects, they will communicate the news.

I just wanted to add that with respect to the fire truck in Baker Lake, it is currently being repaired and the parts they need are ready for shipment to the community. We are expecting them to arrive soon and to have the fire truck operational prior to the Christmas holidays. That's just for information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 143 – 3(2): Contract for Medevac Services in Kivalliq

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley.

I was asked to question your department on when the medical travel contract is going to end for the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): While it's very important to deal with emergencies in any of the communities whether it's in the Kivalliq or Baffin... from what I recall, the contract will end on March 31, 2010 and since it's fast approaching, we are going to start planning on how the next contract will be awarded. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 144 – 3(2): Transparency of the Government’s Budget Process

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Going back to the clarification to the question... I can’t talk today.

>>*Laughter*

His response was that yesterday, he informed the House that the money for the Grise Fiord dozer under minor capital was reallocated to the mobile equipment block fund and he has since learned that this money was not reallocated to the mobile equipment fund, as stated.

My question is then it goes back to the start: where did the money go if it’s not where you said it was? If the minister could answer that question. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the small capital budget was created, it was, and I explained to him, that were targeted for a variety of projects, primarily to address emergencies and so on and so forth.

On that, for more transparency, I guess from previous governments, CGS attempted to be fully transparent in producing and presenting a list of potential small projects. It may include

the dozer in his community or not, and there’s that list of potential. Sometimes, as emergencies and other things come up, that potential could change because it is after all a potential small project. So that’s what happened to that.

That list, when we voted on it in capital, we voted on the capital money itself and not necessarily those that were on the potential as they are not included in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation. It starts to become clearer and clearer, but I guess it goes back to what I was talking about in my Member’s Statement.

I think I understand in terms of small capital. There is a potential list of where the money could be spent. Depending on emergencies, I know the budget would have to be moved around. I think that’s the flexibility that I was talking about in my Member’s Statement.

But going back to Mr. Aupaluktuq’s fire truck, it was actually in the hard not the potential list for the 2009-2010 that a fire truck was needed. Going back to my question about what research is done before the capital comes before us, did no one... he was apologizing, I don’t know if that’s right to apologize. Did no one go talk to the fire marshal before they decided that the fire truck was needed?

The research wasn’t done before it was actually put into the capital plans because it sounded like to me, the answer you gave was it was in the

capital plan and we had to take it off because the fire marshal said the fire truck was fine. Why wasn't the fire marshal consulted before it ended up before the House? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I didn't hear a supplementary to the first question. Is it another question to Mr. Aupaluktuq's question? Could you clarify that, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister, I believe he was asking questions about the capital projects as his supplementary. If that's not the case, then Mr. Elliott can rephrase his question. Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking questions in terms of starting from the beginning, in terms of the capital, how capital is spent and how it goes through the House. I was asking for clarification. That's the carryover from yesterday and I was using the bulldozer as an example; it just sort of fell in that there is capital questions about that as well.

So again, I just find it amazing that information is collected and gathered. It's put in here and then after the fact, people are consulted that maybe should have been consulted before. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Again, that's for small capital projects. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The change for the Baker Lake fire truck through the capital, when we did that, we went

through the proper notification of the chair of the appropriate committee and we went through the proper procedures in deciding to reallocate those funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) That's it? Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister that I want to ask questions to is not in the House, so I will pass for now.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 145 – 3(2): Appointment of New Chair of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board hasn't had a permanent chair for quite a long time and they have very large responsibilities. They currently have an acting chair and that is hindering the planning process for the future.

Could you have a discussion with your counterpart to make sure that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board gets a permanent position or could you give us an update on the status of getting a chair for the NWMB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very important point in wildlife management in Nunavut. There has been an absence of a permanent chair at the NWMB and there has been an acting chair. There has been somebody selected, from my understanding, on the NWMB as a chair but has not been appointed by the federal government yet. That's the status of where they are, I believe.

I also believe that they also having some other staff capacity problems at the NWMB, but it is very important that that board functions as it is for wildlife management decisions to be made in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for the minister to further task his federal counterparts to ensure that this position is filled? It seems to have been empty for quite a while and the duties of the NWMB are becoming backlogged as more items arrive monthly.

Yet, they have to work on these matters if they are to progress. That is why I am asking if the minister can encourage his federal counterparts to appoint a Nunavummiuq to that position, regardless of whom it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be interacting with the federal Minister of Environment

on several occasions coming up and I will assure the member that I will advise him of our priority to have that position appointed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please inform the federal minister to appoint a Nunavummiuq to the chair so that we can truly believe in the NWMB and its duties as representing Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will pass on that message. I just want to ensure here that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is its own entity and they're responsible for hiring and who they hire too, but I will definitely pass on that message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 146 – 3(2): No Furniture in New Health Centre in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify this firstly that I will be asking a slightly different question after I pose my first question. This question will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In Pangnirtung, the new health centre was constructed and completed over the

winter, in February 2009 as a matter of fact. The building and code inspections were completed and it passed all of the inspections at that time.

During our spring session, I spoke to the issue where I asked about the furniture and equipment and whether it would make it on the 2009 sealift to our community. The expected materials never arrived. Although several ships made it into our community, none of the equipment made it up to our community during that sealift.

I would like to thank the Minister of Community and Government Services for explaining via correspondence that the Department of Health and Social Services will be responsible for the shipment of the furniture. It stated that the furniture and other equipment would be arriving over the winter, but they would have to be shipped up via air cargo, as no cargo ships traverse our waters when the sea ice forms.

The health centre is a brand new building and our residents would like to utilize it as it ought to have been completed and open quite a while ago. Our old health centre is packed and running out of space. So my question to the minister is: when can our community expect to start seeing the furniture that was promised? As it will not arrive via ship, will it be shipped up via air cargo? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for

posing that question. We have been apprised of the situation. As per our written correspondence to the member, we did state that our expectations were that the health centre would open this fall. We had expected the furniture and equipment to arrive via sealift over the summer season.

Due to delays in the shipment of materials, it appears that our next option will be to start shipping the necessary equipment and furniture during the month of January and our expectations are that this new health centre will be fully operational by February. Once the equipment and materials have been housed properly for shipment, we should be able to open the health centre in February.

Our plans are that the shipments will commence in January and be completed in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig.

Question 147 – 3(2): Number of School Buses in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a short question. If the Minister of Education can respond, I would like to ask him a question.

Last fall, I had asked a question to the officials of the minister's department and they responded to me that Pond Inlet was requesting for a smaller size bus. When I heard that response, I was pleased to go home.

When I go back home, I usually meet with different entities, such as the education committee chair. When I met him, the reason why they didn't want to get a bigger bus is because the old roads have blind corners. They wanted two small busses because the roads have blind corners.

Why did they receive only one small bus when they requested two small busses that can be equivalent to one big bus? That's what they requested at the beginning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. We just followed the application or the proposal. I can't respond to his question at this time, so I would like to take his question as notice and I will get back to him as soon as possible.

I don't know why the community received only one bus when they requested for two busses, so I will have to get back to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your question has been taken as notice, Mr. Arvaluk. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 148 – 3(2): Long Gun Registry

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

The federal government had recently made a vote on the gun registry. I was pleased to hear that, but I did not hear the Nunavut government's position on that issue. So I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what the Nunavut government will be doing in regard to gun registration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question, it's the first time anyone has asked be about our position. I am pleased to tell the member that we support the Parliament Members' bill that is before the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the standing committee will take that bill to review it. I would like to ask the minister if they are going to appear before that standing committee at the federal level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been invited to appear before the standing committee. I'm not aware of us making inquiries about appearing either, but if I can check on that and get back to the member. At this time, we have no plans to appear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. If there are no more, Item 7.

Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Lorne Kusugak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 066 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Lease Activity Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document:

- Lease Activity Report 2008-09

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 067 – 3(2): A booklet on “A Property Owner’s Guide to Contaminated Site Remediation in Nunavut”

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a booklet on “A Property Owner’s Guide to Contaminated Site Remediation in Nunavut.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Tabled Document 068 – 3(2): Report on the Paris Air Show 2009 Trade Mission

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report

on the Paris Air Show 2009 Trade Mission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Hunter Tootoo.

Tabled Document 069 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Strategic Plan for the Period 2010-2030, “Building Futures Together: Working Document”

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s Strategic Plan for the Period 2010-30, “*Building Futures Together: Working Document, November 19, 2009.*” I also would like to thank all the individuals that helped put this together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 070 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Annual Report Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Annual Report 2008-2009 for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

I, too, have documents to table.

Tabled Document 071 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Pension Administration Report

Tabled Document 072 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Audited Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 073 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Audited Financial Statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund

As required by the Legislative Assembly's *Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the pension administration report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you.

As required by the Legislative Assembly's *Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you.

As required by the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 11 – The Order of Nunavut Act – First Reading

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It gives me great pleasure to move the following motion, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 11, *The Order of Nunavut Act*, be read for the first time and the first time from this side. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:51 and Committee resumed at 15:24*

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 8, starting with the Department of Justice, followed by the Department of Education, and if time

permits, followed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the capital estimates for the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2010-2011 – Justice –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Yesterday, the Minister of Justice and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness provided their opening comments. Minister Peterson, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the Chambers?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have witnesses.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please let the minister's staff into the Chambers.

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Doug Garson, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, and to my left is Ted Dingle, Manager of Corporate Services for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before we proceed, I would

like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? I guess there are no general comments.

We will move on to page-by-page and we will start at C-3. It's Justice. Directorate. Branch Summary. Total Capital Expenditures. \$400,000. Are there any questions or comments? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to C-5. Justice. Corrections. Branch Summary. Total Capital Expenditures, as amended or sorry, not as amended.

>> *Laughter*

Are there any questions? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regards to C-5, the total includes both C-6 and C-7 which I believe we are dealing with currently. Can you clarify that for our benefit please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That's correct, both pages. Mr. Okalik, go ahead.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This item which we

flagged earlier in the report, specifically with respect to a new correctional facility, which is being planned at this stage, was a concern we shared.

The committee members spoke to this concern with respect to the \$300,000. I will be making a motion to slash this amount from the total and in order to prepare for the motion; we will need to take a short break. I would like to prepare the documentation first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I think we will take a five-minute break to get ready for this motion. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:29 and resumed at 15:32

Chairman: Mr. Okalik, go ahead.

Committee Motion 001 – 3(2):

Deletion of \$300,000 from the 2010-2011 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the \$300,000 in proposed funding for the “Correctional Facility Replacement” project be deleted from the 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with the debate on the motion I have a few comments to make as to the procedures. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which

closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister appeared before the standing committee during the review of the capital estimates we let him know that we were quite concerned about the correctional facility replacement.

Since Nunavut was created we will have constructed three correctional facilities and every time there is an election they build new correctional facilities and we would like to see something else. The correctional facility in Rankin Inlet is still incomplete and we’re now planning for a replacement of the correctional facility. We were quite concerned because we wanted to see other projects. The Rankin Inlet correctional facility has room for an addition.

In the future, if the facility becomes too small, there is a plan for an addition to built for that building. Therefore we cannot just accept that \$300,000 proposed funding for the correctional facility replacement. And we hear the correctional facility we have is overcrowded all the time. On behalf of people, Mr. Chairman, there are other homes that are broken down too.

With all those things wrong, I can’t just accept the replacement correctional facility when my constituents’ needs are high. Therefore I move this motion to delete this proposed funding, and I further urge all of my colleagues to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any more members wishing to speak to the motion? Hon. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak. Mr. Chairman, when I became the Minister of Justice I asked for a briefing from my staff and they started to tell me about the facilities in there. In the Baffin Correctional Centre there was a series of discussions that I simply told them after they told me some of the horror stories about that facility, I said don't tell me more, show me.

So, Mr. Chairman, I and my executive assistant, Nick Pashkoski, were given a tour of the facility. We saw firsthand what that facility is like. It's overcrowded, it's dilapidated, there are parts of the building hanging from the ceiling, there's not enough space for the overcrowding, there's not enough space for the proper counselling programs, rehab programs that you would expect from a facility like that.

It has the potential to lead to violence because you have so many offenders in there. Some days there is upwards of 95. You have staff in there and they're crowded in there with them.

So I asked for some detailed information on the facility and learned that it's over 20 years old. It wasn't really designed for the capacity that it has there now, it was originally designed for 42 and now it's expanded to 66 if my information and memory is correct. Like I said, there are sometimes 95 or 96 depending on the day of the week.

I know their staff everyday they are monitoring the logistics of moving

offenders between jurisdictions between the Northwest Territories and we have an MOU with the North Slave Correctional Centre and Ontario where they have a number of facilities. In the Northwest Territories, at any given day, there could be 40 offenders from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is charging us \$266 a day, that's almost \$97,000 a year. We're basically paying for their facility with our offenders and in Ontario, I think there could be as many as 30 offenders down there.

Now, I arranged through my officials to have a tour of three facilities in Ontario to see first hand. I heard concerns from regular members, they were concerned that our offenders are being sent south and they weren't getting counselling, they weren't getting rehabilitative courses and sending Inuit and other Nunavummiut to the south was not something that they were particularly happy with, that they should be looked after closer to home.

So I visited the Fenbrook facility in Ontario, north of Toronto, and I visited Central East, which is also north of Toronto, I visited Millhaven. Now, I went to Fenbrook and I talked to several of the inmates from Nunavut and I had, in fact, six or seven from my own constituency and they were very happy to see me. They told me that if we had a facility like Fenbrook or the programs like they have at Fenbrook in Nunavut, they would love to be closer to home. Several of them in particular mentioned the Baffin Correctional Centre.

I talked to the Inuit liaison officers, three nice ladies down there who work with our offenders from the North, and they put on three excellent programs. The

Tupiq is one program in particular that has a very high success rate of counselling for folks from the North, and they have a spousal assault and family violence programs and very well attended, they have classrooms down there, they have a chapel, they have fitness centres, they have a library with computers and classrooms.

So that's kind of a nice facility, but they said they would like to be brought home. The problem with being brought home to Nunavut is that we don't have the facilities. Now, I recognize what Mr. Okalik said. There's a facility being built in Rankin Inlet that would be able to accommodate up to 48 prisoners, but the fact of the matter is that wouldn't accommodate all of the inmates who we require beds for in Nunavut.

It being what it is, I asked our officials to start looking at the situation with the Baffin Correctional Centre. It's a facility that's old, dilapidated, and things have constantly broken down and fallen apart over there. It's chipping away at our funding. Locks sometimes won't work, the fire suppression systems fail, and so on and so forth.

So I asked them to include \$300,000 in the capital plan for the Department of Justice to initiate a study, Mr. Chairman, to look at modernizing, expanding, upgrading, and possibly replacing the Baffin Correctional Centre. We did not say that we're going to build a new facility. What I need is information as the Minister of Justice and the government needs it as well on what would be our cost to modernize, expand, upgrade, or replace as options.

As the Minister of Justice and as a concerned Nunavummiut, I would not be doing my job, Mr. Chairman, if I didn't look at providing a facility that's modern, accommodates the important needs of our inmates and the safety of our staff and officials out there, as well as the safety of the offenders who are in the facility.

So I explained to the standing committee that this is what it was. We had our meeting last month and we had a good debate. I appreciate the member's comments, concerns, and all of the recommendations.

I know it says on page C-6, it says, "Correctional facility replacement." That's probably a poor choice of words. If they had used the word when it was drafted, "Correctional facility study," that might have been a better choice of words. But in the interest of openness and transparency in this government, we and I wanted to make sure that the standing committee understands what the purpose of the \$300,000 was for.

We're being completely open and candid with everybody here and Nunavummiut. Everybody reads the media reports and you hear about the issues at the Baffin Correctional Centre. I have been hearing them for many years when I was in the Kitikmeot.

Some of my constituents would be sent over here and they had difficulties with the facility. I heard all of the horror stories to the point where my constituents didn't want to come to the Baffin Correctional Centre; they would prefer to be sent to the North Slave Correctional Centre. When I was a Mayor of Cambridge Bay and again as

MLA, I raised that issue a number of times.

When inmates are saying that they don't want to be sent to the Baffin Correctional Centre because it's falling apart and it's dangerous, then you know you have a problem. They're telling me that and my officials are as well. It's a facility that has to be replaced and it has to be looked at.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I did not say that we're going to proceed with constructing a new facility. If I put my other hat on as the Minister of Finance, I recognize that the funding for \$100 million to \$150 million capital project of this nature would be very difficult to proceed with in any event.

Any of this stuff, any of these choices - modernizing, expanding, upgrading, or replacing - they would have to be put on the capital plan and would have to come into this House for discussion and debate. So there was no intention to proceed with the construction of an expensive facility. It's simply for information purposes. We were quite willing to share that information with members of the standing committee.

Again, this government is committed to openness and transparency. I urge all Members of this House to approve and support the \$300,000. I think it is incumbent upon us as leaders in Nunavut that we look first to the safety of our offenders and our staff. Many of them are friends, relatives, and neighbours in our communities. They deserve a facility that will help them become better citizens so when they return to their communities and reintegrate, they be given a hand up in that regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to have made a few comments on the motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk. To the motion.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that any kind of argument can be made. There is overcrowding everywhere, including our own non-incarcerated, regular citizens of Nunavut, who are in overcrowded houses, because we can't afford to build anymore houses. We don't see them though, because they don't make noise; they're not being looked after; they're just boarding with relatives and friends and sometimes renting rooms. They're not as visible as an overcrowded jail. There are some other examples like that.

The schools are overcrowded. We passed a bill last year on education trying to determine what would be a good pupil-teacher ratio. We're not following that in reality. It's not possible right now with overcrowded schools, shortage of teachers because of that we keep some of them. I just had a tour of Pond Inlet just before I came here. Before even Mr. Kusugak came up to make an announcement with our arena, I had my own tour. I expressed that the ratio is still too high in some classrooms.

The problems are everywhere, including this one. I think that when we were in a committee, the explanation was a little different. In the substantiation sheets, it still says replacement correctional facility in Iqaluit-type building, although it's the class is usual X. That doesn't really identify exactly how much.

We also made a declaration in 1999 that we will not ignore the Kitikmeot any longer. I forget the exact grammar that was used, but something along those lines. Could we have not consider designing at least a dream building, a facility in the Kitikmeot, similar to what we are building in the Kivalliq today rather than replacing the old one here? This old one is something. In a lot of other places we have nothing.

It is very difficult to support the inclusion of \$300,000 in a substantiation sheet for the study, or initiation, for a replacement of a correctional facility in Iqaluit.

What I also would like to see is the justice department taking different measures in aggressively looking at different avenues for the incarceration of inmates. For example, can we be aggressively pursuing the potential for On-the-Land Program rather than taking them down to Iqaluit and locking them up? We are saying now there is no facility that will heal them. There is no facility to give them recreational activities because the room is used for sleeping space.

I would like to see a more aggressive pursuit of incarcerating the inmates at home. Maybe a more attractive contract can be made and maybe a proper training program can be made in the communities incorporating other work that different departments do; social services training program just recently finished one in Cambridge Bay. Maybe it could be the Teacher Education Program, maybe the Community Incarceration Program, with healing programs included can be initiated. Things like that.

So rather than looking for a building all the time to put away those who are not behaving too well in the community, maybe we should take them more seriously and look at them as human beings that need help. Maybe the best help they can get is at home, and not give them to the foreign people and hope that they will heal. I would like to see this money being used elsewhere. We're going to have to pinch pennies because the money is very tight. I heard that the money is going to become even tighter from the federal government down the road because they will have to recover that \$50 billion or something along that line, a debt that they will have to recoup.

I think we're going to have to be a lot more careful as to how we spend our money. With that, I'm going to vote yes with the motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are there any more members wishing to speak to the motion? Mr. Tapardjuaq, go ahead and speak to the motion.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tapardjuk is my name, not Tapardjuaq.

>> *Laughter*

I know exactly where everyone is coming from and why they're concerned. I have always worked hard to decrease the number of incarcerated persons in these facilities. Usually, we have to run it the same way. If a business fails then it goes down. We know for example there is the issue of recidivism, and we know who those people are. They served their time and then they return again. Those are the repeat

offenders that we keep seeing continuously.

The government has to understand that the Baffin Correctional Centre, we hear is overcrowded and we hear that the building is aging and the number of incarcerated individuals is increasing. They're not decreasing. Some are even sent elsewhere to other facilities, as the Minister of Justice indicated earlier to Yellowknife and federal penitentiaries in southern provinces and those numbers constitute a concern to us. How do we minimize the number of people being sent down to the federal penitentiaries?

Be that as it may, there are still a fair amount of unresolved issues related to justice and social services, and in particular when we conduct a review of the bill proposed by the minister of Health and Social Services. This impacts on all of these matters, obviously, and relates to the number of people incarcerated. This matter is something, we as a government, and for the regular members, has to completely understand what else ought to be done in this area?

This concern will be an ongoing one, and with respect to the numbers, they are not decreasing. Perhaps we can look at the wording as it pertains to the correctional facility assessment review, where the \$300,000 is to be used for a study. Perhaps we are stalling over the wording as it is written.

For this side of the house, that this \$300,000 will be utilized to conduct a comprehensive review of the system, what gaps we have and what else has to be planned for in order to resolve this matter in our immediate future. And it is obvious that the residents of Rankin Inlet

would benefit if it were completed, along with the women's correctional facility project. If both projects were to be completed, then it falls in line with what we are trying to review.

As a government, in order to plan for the future, we have to fully understand the issues related to the situation, and we also have to identify gaps or challenges that are brought to surface by these attempts to mitigate these concerns when we are trying to finalize these benefits.

We too, as a government, want to fully understand what this \$300,000 will be utilized for. It is to fund a study to do exactly that, so I would urge that this be supported so that our preparations for the future will be based on a comprehensive review of our current system.

The only way we can proceed from this point, is to keep this funding so that we can review the findings. One ought not to guess about these matters, but to have a fully delineated and comprehensive report on the system which members could peruse at their leisure. I urge my colleagues to support this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any more members wishing to speak to the motion? Hon. Hunter.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday was your first day in the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and this is your first time dealing with a motion in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, I think I would like to echo both Minister Peterson and

Minister Tapardjuk's comments. I have been critical in the past, as well as other former regular members here, of the government not keeping the members informed of what they were doing with the money that's being approved. I think Minister Peterson pointed out that is one of the main reasons why that's in there. It could have very easily been included in a minor capital project.

I think I agree with him and Louis that it could have been a proper wording, maybe just a wording change similar to the wording change that was done in last year's capital with the fencing on the Housing Corporation's budget where members brought forward a motion for secured storage and it left different options open for us to be able to address instead of just the fencing.

I think that in this case, Mr. Chairman, "replacement" isn't the right word either. A study or an assessment, by the sounds of it, is what's actually being looked at here. Similar to what the Housing Corporation is doing with this needs survey; we need information in order to be able to plan what we need to do.

I say what the Department of Justice is doing is just trying to figure out what exactly needs to be addressed with this current facility. I think there hasn't been a lot of dollars put into it over the last number of years and I think with the new facility in Rankin Inlet opening up will alleviate some of the overcrowding issues but not all of it. But regardless of that, that facility is not going to close. It's still going to be there and I think as a government we have a responsibility to provide not only a safe work environment for employees but also a safe environment for the individuals that

are unfortunate enough to have to be detained in that facility.

I think by doing this assessment that identifies the deficiencies in the facility and the minister used the word dilapidated, it is an old facility, and like any old facility stuff needs to be done to it. That's what my understanding is of what the minister is saying. That is what they're looking at trying to identify with this study.

In the case of openness and transparency put it out there so that members are aware. The concern comes of replacement, I think I would encourage members to instead of removing that funding from the budget all together, just to amend the wording in there to have it say Correctional Facility Study or Assessment, which is basically all that is really happening there to be able to identify the deficiencies so that the department can put together a plan of what needs to be addressed and those things that the minister indicated would be brought forward. And any future capital budgets that will be brought forward before the House, all members will have an opportunity to ask questions on and vote on.

I think it's just a misunderstanding and "miswording." It's unfortunate, but I think it's quite clear, as the minister indicated, this is just to take a look at the issues that have developed there over time that need to be addressed in order for this government to provide a safe work place and a safe facility to house the inmates that are there. I think it would be derelict in our duty if we didn't do that, if we didn't say we need to know what those issues are and we need to address them.

I think it would be irresponsible of us to ignore that. The reason that it's in the state that it is, is because some of those issues may have been ignored in the past and we can no longer afford to do that. What the minister was asking for here is we need to identify exactly what all the issues are so that we can develop something to bring into the capital planning process in the future.

So I'm going to encourage members instead of deleting it completely from the budget to look at amending the wording so that it is quite clear that that's what it is for. It's not for replacements; it's for an assessment or a study of the existing facility to identify deficiencies so that they can develop a plan to move forward to address those deficiencies because it potentially could be a huge liability for the government. Like I said, it would be irresponsible for us to ignore the situation out there.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would ask members if they would be interested in amending the motion to change the wording. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any more members wishing to speak to the motion? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far back as I can remember in the Northwest Territories we were looking for ways to reduce potential crimes. I remember we had a debate similar in nature in the House and it was then I believe that alternatives to incarcerating people, especially young people came up.

I also heard at the time that while there are young people that commit first or

second crime but end up in jail with other individuals who have been in incarceration for many, many years and they are exposed to other bad influences from other inmates. One idea that came up, as I mentioned, was the alternative justice idea where people in the community could take them out on the land where they are not exposed to bad things, I'm not saying that everything is bad in corrections. One member, I believe was that, why don't we try to help these people before they start committing real bad crimes.

We can expose those people to the land, to nature, to the wind, to all the elements and in their eyes they are helping their community to obtain food for the people that don't have anyone to hunt for them, perhaps working with social services, working for elders, getting some ice in the winter for the people that don't have any way of getting ice from the clean fresh water lake.

So I think there times when instead of putting people in jail, people that are not dangerous offenders, people that are less likely, or perhaps more likely to repeat crimes in the future begin to appreciate, Mr. Chairman, what the land, nature, and the community have to offer for them.

So having said those things, I will support the motion. If worse comes to worst we can always find \$300,000 from within the public purse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Are there any other members wishing to speak to the motion? Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't matter if I remain seated?

We need to do a study if we want to improve any facility that especially needs to be studied and review where the improvements are needed because we need to know where we need to make improvements.

Although we would use the funding to do the study, it will be beneficial to do a study to make sure we know where we require improvements. I truly believe that we need to reduce crimes and the number of incarcerated people and that's what we're working on so that the families' lives in the communities are improved and I believe that we should work on that so that we won't increase the number of inmates.

That's what we would like to see but looking at the situation today it's not the case, as the Minister of Justice said that we send inmates outside of the territory down south and also the Baffin Correctional Centre is always overloaded and the facility is aging and becoming dilapidated. It is evident that facility needs to be worked on because of its aging.

Before they start working on that correctional facility, we need to do a study to find out where we need the work in that facility. If we just leave that facility alone, without any study, it's going to cost even more money to fix up the problems and maintain the correctional facility.

So therefore, I am in support of the study. I am very sorry that meaning in the correctional facility replacement is

not correct. It needs to be replaced with a study. So therefore I am urging all members to make sure that we keep the funding for the study of the facility. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Are there any more members wishing to speak to the motion? Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I talked about this issue to the minister when he made the presentation to the standing committee. We did not even understand about the facility in Rankin Inlet being constructed, and also the women's correctional facility. I believe that we are getting ahead of ourselves in trying to get additional correctional facilities.

Like what the Premier said, I believe that we should be working towards reducing the number of incarcerations through healing and people who have problems need to heal in their lives.

I was thinking that the correctional facility in Rankin Inlet, and also the women's correctional facility here will probably take on the overflow of the inmates that we have now. It's going to reduce the number of inmates in one facility.

I believe that we need to find out, after these facilities are running it will become evident whether we need to get a correctional facility replacement, or a brand new facility. Even before those two correctional facilities are completed, we are looking to find out whether we need to get a new correctional facility.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we're getting ahead of ourselves. As I stated to Minister Peterson in the past, and I'm sure he remembers, once there is no overflow at BCC, and I believe with renovations, I'm sure they would make more room and use BCC for healing and take on healing programs. I would like to see that kind of a program go ahead in the facility instead.

Once we start finding out what the real situation is, do a study, and do an assessment. Even before we start operating the two correctional facilities, we're already trying to make a decision that we want to do a study on a correctional facility. We should be looking at it, rather than increasing the number of inmates, we should be using Inuit societal values. I'm sure that there would be fewer crimes committed. If the Inuit way and values aren't utilized, we're going to continue to go through these hardships.

Mr. Chairman, they talked about renovating the BCC in the past because it's aging and overcrowded with inmates. Not too long ago, in January, they were going to have a women's correctional facility and not too long ago, they will complete the correctional facility in Rankin Inlet.

I believe it would be better, Mr. Chairman, for the future if we start making healing programs. Some individuals at the community level end up committing crimes because they have no guidance or services. As I stated earlier, individuals and communities require help. The communities are trying to make brighter futures so that they can realize that they need a good community as a whole.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I will be in support of the motion to delete the \$300,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Johnny, Member for Nanulik. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for pronouncing my name correctly.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I understand that for every kind of infrastructure for Nunavut, we do need to take a study/assessment and evaluate. This \$300,000 is for a study, as the minister has indicated. The topic of discussion seems to be that there's alternative justice out there, like on-the-land programs and other various community-driven issues.

It is sad to say that no matter what, our population is going up, there's more requirement for space. It's a known fact and it's a sad fact that we do need more safe places for inmates in Nunavut. Not only that, safety is a huge concern for the employees or staff who run these facilities.

This \$300,000, as the minister indicated, is for a study. We do that for every infrastructure in Nunavut. Without that, nothing really happens. We promised, as a government, that we were going to look at these issues and we want to be proactive rather than reactive.

With this line item there of a new facility, it doesn't really indicate that there is going to be a new facility built. You've got to remember that there are a lot of our people down south in various

other provinces. Mr. Chairman, I believe that with the cost of transportation and the fees that are charged by these other facilities to our government, we're actually paying for some other facility to be built down in other provinces.

I think we have to take responsibility and deal with our own issues up here in Nunavut. It's quite sad, but for the most part, we do have to keep in mind that we have to have a safe environment for our employees out there.

This study, although it is worded incorrectly as a replacement it doesn't necessarily mean that there is going to be a new facility built. That still has to go through the proper channels and proper procedures and for every kind of infrastructure we do need a study and as indicated before we have to be proactive rather than reactive, and it is a point here where safety is a huge factor in this type of occupation.

Without facilities to rehabilitate our inmates there is really nothing that is going to be happening. We all know for a fact that it's great to have community justice outpost camps but at this current situation that doesn't address what is needed right now in Nunavut and with that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to be standing and voting against the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Are there any more members? Mr. Hunter.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to amend the motion. I would like to move to amend the motion to read, maybe take a break to type up the

motion in both languages so that everybody could see it.

The amendment would read that I move that that \$300,000 in proposed funding for the Correctional Facility Replacement Project be renamed to the Correctional Facility Assessment Project. So take a few minutes break if we could get that typed up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will take a short recess.

Order. We can't entertain that motion because he already had spoken to the motion and he can't do it twice. It's out of order. I wish to inform the committee that I have no more names on my list. Does the mover, Okalik, have the last reply?

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we're not saying no to try to address the overcrowding in the current facility.

In this budget, we are actually approving \$16.2 million to build and hopefully complete in the very near future the Rankin Inlet facility so that the overcrowding situation in Nunavut will be addressed in the near future. The minister also announced that there will be a women's facility opened next year. So with that news, the issue of overcrowding hopefully will be reduced.

In the last session with the last government, we also passed the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to try and keep people out of jail, to try and practice more of our traditional ways of healing. So those measures are underway. As my

colleague for Nanulik explained, we would like to see these projects completed first before we study any more jails. There are far more pressing issues, in my opinion, to address.

Here in Iqaluit, for example, we don't have a community learning centre, something that I have been pressing this government to address. I look to the capital plan projects for a community learning centre and it's not scheduled to be studied until 2012. A lot of my constituents could use that help so that they can have more productive lives and perhaps stay out of jail if they get a job. So I would rather focus on that than look at more jail time.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I ask all my colleagues to support this motion. We're not saying no to a study in the future. Once these projects are completed, perhaps we will be in a better position to assess our situation and judge it accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. Mr. Peterson. You already spoke. You want to record a vote? Go ahead, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're having a busy sort of first day on the job, welcome to politics.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and then sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Rumbolt.

All those opposed, please stand and then sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Madam Premier.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

As there's a tie vote, as the Chair, I will need to break the tie vote. I'll have to go as to the way the motion is presented to me and I'll have to vote in favour of the motion. The motion is carried.

We will get Minister Peterson back to his seat up there on the witness stand. We will go page C-5. Justice. Corrections. Branch Summary. Total

Capital Expenditures, as amended.
\$16,200,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to C-2. Justice. Department Summary. Justice. Details of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures, as amended. \$16,600,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and your staff. Do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It certainly has been an interesting hour for all of us. I appreciate that this is what democracy is all about. I appreciate the support of my Cabinet colleagues for this facility study.

I appreciate the comments and concerns expressed by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. They were all very good comments. I think we all want to work together to improve our justice system in Nunavut at all levels, the community, the territorial, and even the federal level.

I would like to express my appreciation to the people who do work in the justice system to look after our offenders and try to provide a safe environment.

I would like to express my appreciation also for the hard work that is done at the community levels through our

community justice committees. I had an opportunity to mention that the community justice committees do divert a lot of people from our communities to alternative justice measures quite successfully. Large numbers, in fact, are diverted and don't end up in the facilities. Facilities aren't very nice.

If you've ever toured the Baffin Correctional Centre or Millhaven, or Fenbrook, or Central East like I have, you just don't want to get into these places. Any time we can prevent people from going to jail is good for us.

I would like to express my appreciation too to the folks that I met in the facilities down south. They told me that they would like to be in Nunavut. They don't get visits from relatives down there. They don't get very many visits from elders. They miss country food. They miss the healing that they think could get in Nunavut if there were proper facilities.

They see that the First Nations people in the south have elders who come in and work with them on traditional healing through sweat lodges and smudges, and things like that. They don't have that opportunity. That's the kind of stuff we have to start thinking about up here, how to provide proper counselling, rehabbing, and in facilities that are modern so we can reintegrate folks successfully back into their communities and make our communities safe.

I would also like to thank my officials who appeared with me today, Mr. Garson and Mr. Dingle. I would like to also express my appreciation to the two folks in the Gallery. I neglected to mention them earlier. Mr. Doug Straiter

works pretty closely in Corrections and I would like to thank Christine Bens. She is an intern for director of corporate services. Eventually, one of these days, she will be sitting here beside me and replacing Mr. Dingle.

>> *Applause*

Invite her to the standing committee and Committee of the Whole so she gets some practical experience. I think this has been a good learning experience for her.

With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time and I thank everybody for this good debate. Thank you.

Chairman: I would like to thank you and your officials for showing up. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out.

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Schell, for chairing the Committee of the Whole while we took a break and also for practicing pronouncing last names. I'm sure you will learn as we go on when you're chairing the Committee of the Whole later on.

We will move on to the Department of Education. I would like to ask Minister Tapardjuk if he has any opening comments. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2010-2011 – Education –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to discuss the proposed 2010-2011 Department of Education Capital

Projects Budget. Our government has many capital priorities in the area of education. With 42 schools throughout Nunavut there is a substantial capital investment in educational infrastructure in every community in Nunavut.

Our student enrollment for the 2009-10 school year is as follows: in the Kitikmeot, 1,613; in the Kivalliq, 2,957; and in the Baffin region, 4,710, for a total enrollment of 9,280 students from kindergarten to grade 12. We will continue to take measures to maintain these facilities. These priorities are made all the more challenging with the recent dramatic increase in construction costs.

The Department of Education's proposed 2010-11 capital budget is \$12,910,000, with an ongoing project budget of \$57,463,000 from 2011-12 and to 2014-15. Our proposed 2010-11 budget complies with the current necessary fiscal restraints, while incorporating some practical programs, which will lead to long-term savings for the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education gathers information from hamlets, district education authorities, school staff and teachers, and the Department of Community and Government Services to develop, plan, and manage our capital priorities.

Through our comprehensive facilities capital database, we're able to analyze school utilization and their physical condition, along with planned program requirements to determine our capital requirements.

The Department of Education is guided by the principles of *Inuit*

Qaujimajatuqangit in our capital planning and design phases, as well as supporting multi-purpose facilities, partnerships, and student training as fundamental elements in our construction contacts.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my department will move forward in a fiscally responsible manner. I believe this plan provides the residents with the best affordable educational facilities this government can currently offer.

Mr. Chairman, over the past few years my department has been faced with unforeseen life cycle repairs requiring immediate action. Repairs if left undone will affect the health and safety of our students and staff. Lifecycle repairs are all of the building components such as boilers, flooring, wall finishes, and windows and others that need periodic replacement as per their intended life. Action to get these lifecycle repairs done must be taken as soon as possible. If a school closes there is lost instructional time and our children will suffer.

The proposed ongoing lifecycle repairs initiative will allow my department to identify repair items not noticed during regular repair cycles in our schools and plan in a proactive manner to address the issue of repairs. With that, these funds would be allocated on an as needed basis with the lifecycle repair projects being approved by the deputy minister. Mr. Chairman, this initiative will cost approximately \$1.5 million for this coming year.

Mr. Chairman, we are also proposing a computer replacement and upgrading program to determine our computer requirements as software becomes more

demanding and the need to recycle computers on a regular basis is needed. I believe we need a program whereby every three to five years the computers in our schools are assessed, upgraded, and or replaced in order to keep up with technology. Mr. Chairman, this initiative will cost approximately \$100,000 for this coming year.

Mr. Chairman, we are also proposing to plan for a school addition for Repulse Bay's Tusarvik School. The school is overcrowded. Utilization is currently at 103 percent, capacity is 263 students and enrollment is 272 students. Mr. Chairman, this initiative will cost approximately \$50,000 for this coming year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to update my colleagues on several ongoing projects to improve or upgrade our community facilities. The addition to the Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2010. The Department of Education has budgeted \$1 million for the upcoming fiscal year to complete the construction of the school addition.

Mr. Chairman, the Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit renovation project began this past June. Work done over this past summer included asbestos remediation, cleaning of the air handling system, energy efficient lighting upgrades, and a major wash down of the entire school. This renovation work will continue being done over the school summer breaks.

This method ensures the safety of students and staff while providing adequate time to complete projects over a four year period. The planning for the

summer of 2010 has begun. Work being planned includes floor replacement and painting. The Department of Education has budgeted \$3,450,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education issued a school assessment request for proposals with the desired outcome being the selection of school assessment teams to visit all Nunavut schools to conduct an overall physical assessment of each facility including a special needs assessment.

The facility assessment will cover the building structure, heating systems, interior systems, cleaning methods, staff and teachers' concerns, daily maintenance, and upkeep, special needs requirements, develop a plan for each school's future requirements. The findings assessments will enable my department to plan and maintain our facilities in a more responsible operational manner.

The Department of Education has budgeted \$875,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq requires an addition and renovations to the existing school. Construction on the addition renovations begin in the summer of 2009 with an anticipated completion date of September 2010. Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq is now too small for the number of students attending the school. Construction of the new school began this summer with an anticipated completion date of December 2010.

The Department of Education has budgeted \$5,100,000 for the upcoming year. Mr. Chairman, I have said this in the past and I want to re-emphasize we

cannot spend more than our means. As a government we must work within the budget framework. There are implications to project costs including staffing, associated housing requirements, building utilities, and ongoing maintenance that must be considered as we look at creating new facilities as well as adding to existing structures.

As this government goes into its new mandate I look forward to working with all members to set priorities and help navigate a new direction for our territory. I'm confident we can work together in the best interest of Nunavummiut and deliver the best possible services and programs for students.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Department of Education's capital budget for 2010-2011 and the subsequent four years. I look forward to your questions, comments and discussion. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have witness you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Members, does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses please. Thank you.

I think we're ready. Minister Tapardjuk, we know your witnesses. They are no strangers to us but for the record, I would like you to introduce your officials. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik and on my right Murray Horn, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you and welcome all. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have any comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq, you can proceed.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Education's proposed 2010-11 capital budget of \$12,910,000.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2010-11 include five community-specific projects and seven projects for which no specific communities or regions are identified. Members note that work on the school projects in Cape Dorset, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq will all become close to completion in the 2010-11 fiscal year. Members recognize that the school renovation project in Iqaluit is a multi-year project that can only be worked on during the summer when there are no students on the premises.

At the present time, all of these projects appear to be proceeding according to

schedule. The standing committee encourages the minister to keep members and communities up to date with any delays or changes in plans.

Mr. Chairman, the school addition project in Repulse Bay is the only new school project to be included in the department's 2010-11 capital estimates with funding of \$50,000 to be allocated for planning work. Members believe it is important to emphasize that when the department undertakes such planning initiatives, the expectations of the impacted community are inevitably raised.

The standing committee encourages the minister and his officials to maintain close communication with the community and its district education authority regarding ongoing progress on the project and any reasons for changes or delay. As we have noted from the experience of other communities, such as, for example, Coral Harbour, significant frustration and resentment can emerge when the department does not follow through with planning initiatives and does not clearly and candidly advise community representatives of a project's status.

Mr. Chairman, when the standing committee initially reviewed information accompanying the Department of Education's proposed capital estimates for 2010-11, a number of the supporting documents were either unclear or contained inaccurate information. The standing committee appreciates the department's willingness to clarify and correct various points of information and members were pleased to receive updated materials for their use and reference.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes the critical importance of education in the future development of Nunavut. The physical condition of our schools as well as related issues such as overcrowding, have a significant impact on the overall success of our education system. Members support the minister in his efforts to ensure that the most favourable conditions for learning are made possible within all of Nunavut's schools and encourage him to revisit projects which were identified as necessary in the past but continue to be deferred in the present capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee further recognizes that other aspects of infrastructure development can support and enhance the provision of education services.

For example, ensuring that adequate staff housing is available for teachers is often a factor in teachers accepting positions in a community.

The standing committee is aware that Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget does include a number of units for staff housing as well as identifying which communities have expressed a need. However, it has not been made clear which other communities may be receiving new housing units in 2010-11 which will be allocated for educational staff.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2010-11 capital estimates propose three projects that focus on assessment activities. Assessing computer needs, special needs and overall lifecycle repair needs for Nunavut schools in 2010-11 is projected to cost just under \$1 million. Members recognize the importance of being

proactive when it comes to identifying potential adverse situations, such as mould or faulty ventilation systems, which may cause school closures.

While the standing committee is pleased that the department is being proactive in preparing to meet identified needs and recognize that it is not always possible to predict areas of expenditure without first undertaking assessments, members are uncomfortable with the idea of approving over \$3 million of funding without more detailed information on what will specifically be accomplished with these dollars in the 2010-11 fiscal year. This includes blocks of funding allocated for minor capital projects, ongoing life-cycle repairs and school buses.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encourages the Department of Education to work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services, which routinely undertakes and compiles information from technical assessments of many of the government's capital assets such as schools and health centres. Members look forward to receiving clear assurances that the Department of Education's work in this area will not turn into a costly duplication of work and effort.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Before we proceed, I

would like to remind the members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are now coordinating the meeting. I thank the minister for making his opening comments because I think he believes, well, he's well aware that the school population is growing and it says Repulse Bay here, maybe you meant to write it down as Resolute Bay. It says Repulse Bay here and it says the Tusarvik School. I thank you very much and I would like to recognize the people of Repulse Bay.

We hear that there is a capacity of 263 students and enrollment is at 272. I commend the parents for making sure that their children are being sent to school. I really don't have much to add to my comments and I will make sure that I make my comments when we are going clause by clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and also the minister.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We're having Christmas presents here already. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Mr. Tapardjuk and his officials. Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk for being able to visit Coral Harbour to look

at the school and to consider our proposal. I thank you once again.

On page 2 in the minister's opening comments, it says there is a student enrollment to the 2009-10 school year for the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin totals. How old is that total enrollment of 9280? When we were talking about the Coral Harbour school they had used old enrollment numbers and the staff had indicated that the enrollment was a lot higher. I want to know if these are recent enrollment totals or if they are old. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk. I apologize. If you would respond please, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): From what I understand, this was from September 2009 total enrollment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the minister was in Coral Harbour it was obvious that there are a lot of needs and usually the total enrollment is very important when you are requesting a school. We can use Repulse Bay as an example here. It's also one of the factors in getting a school.

Again, if you're going to request a school and there were students not attending, it usually decreases the total number of enrolled. That has an effect on your request for a school. Again, on page 4, Inuksuk High School and the renovation project, and in Cape Dorset, I believe... . My question is: are there

other schools in Nunavut that have asbestos and needs remedial work?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Please be aware that you can ask those questions at your leisure and separately if you want. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have my deputy respond to your question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik, if you would respond.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what we understand, there is asbestos present in two schools. I don't know of any other schools that have asbestos. There are special facilities that we're looking at and in there we will also be looking to see if they have asbestos.

To use Inuksuk High School as an example, it is currently 40 years old and the other school, Nakasuk School had that material in its walls. These two facilities are among the oldest facilities in Nunavut and in those days, we were not aware of the risks of asbestos and it was fairly common.

Today, none of the construction materials contain any asbestos, especially in our new school construction materials. However, we will be conducting inspections of all the schools to ascertain whether there is any asbestos contained in them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I certainly hope all members are on the same page,

since we have no term for asbestos in Inuktitut. Most are aware though of its potential health risks if you breathe too much of the asbestos, and I wanted that English word understood by our unilingual Inuit.

Mr. Ningeongan, do you have any other comments? That's it. Are there any other general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments.

We can now proceed to the line-by-line review of the capital estimates starting with page E-3. Total Capital Expenditures. \$12,910,000. Department of Education. Branch Summary. That includes E-4 and E-5. Are there any questions on those pages? Since there are none, Total Capital Expenditures. Department of Education. Total. \$12,910,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department of Education. I apologize. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to completing this review of these items, ever since the government was created, it seems that we are not constructing very many new schools and further, this government has stated that they did not want excessively large school facilities.

Has the department taken into consideration this idea, to use Pond Inlet as an example, we have separate schools for kindergarten to grade 6, and the junior middle school students are also sent to the high school, and grades 7 to 12 are in the high school. Many of us

have noted that when the student population is overflowing, that students start picking on others.

To the point where even the parents become involved, and they have to walk their students to school so that they can protect them from the bullies. Has the department considered downsizing the schools so that each community has a middle school, such as they have here in Iqaluit in smaller communities such as Pond Inlet?

The purpose for my question, Mr. Chairman, is the effect the transition has on the students. Let me rephrase that, when these students leave the elementary school, they are the biggest and eldest students there, but when they arrive at the high school, they are the smallest students in the school, although some of them are almost equal in strength and education.

I believe that this abrupt transition causes too much stress to the students; therefore I am asking whether the department has considered smoothing this transition by having a middle school to ease the transition of our students when they undergo this change, for communities roughly the size of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk, can you try and respond to the question?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his question, under our new *Education Act*, we will be transitioning to the requirements listed in this legislation over the next three years, as we start implementing it over three years.

We will now be relying more on the DEAs, so if the DEAs makes a request, we can look into that. We want to work closely with the DEAs and work closely with them when we are making plans to construct new schools or others, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a second quick question. The minister earlier today was not able to respond to my question and he took it as notice. I know that he will answer me some time, but wouldn't it be more convenient right now that maybe his officials are able to tell me that when the school requested two small buses, they were only sent one. I was just simply wondering what the explanation is. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) According to our rules of the assembly that question was taken as notice, and the minister has a set time to answer that question. So, it is only fair for his officials to focus on the capital projects for now that's before us.

(interpretation) Are there any further questions? I would like to ask a question while they are here. Since they are renovating Inuksuk High School, when the first Inuksuk High School was built they constructed it with very small windows. When you enter the high school it seems like the building has no windows. I know that it can increase the cost for electricity, so I was wondering if you were going to work on the windows. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): My deputy will respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked this question to my officials. They will not be changing the windows at this time because it's very expensive to replace the windows and they will have to change the outside siding also. So it's going to be very expensive to change the windows, so therefore we are not going to change the windows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry to hear that, and I apologize to the students that will be going there. Are there any further questions while the officials are here? I have no more names on my list.

Total Capital Estimates for Education.
\$12,910,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my officials for working hard. The funding, since it's approved, we will want to understand in Nunavut on the special facilities assessments and we will

do an assessment and we're looking forward to that assessment in the upcoming year so that all schools.

Well, we have heard that some schools can't get doors or get windows, these are some of the issues that we have heard and we're not happy to hear that. So once we get all of the information from the special facilities assessments and I'm sure after that assessment, we will probably be making more funds for capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The department is concluded and I would like to thank the officials for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Those are the items that we are to deal with for today. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and would like to report progress. One committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for a meeting tomorrow of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for December 2:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 11
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, December 2, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House adjourned at 17:20

